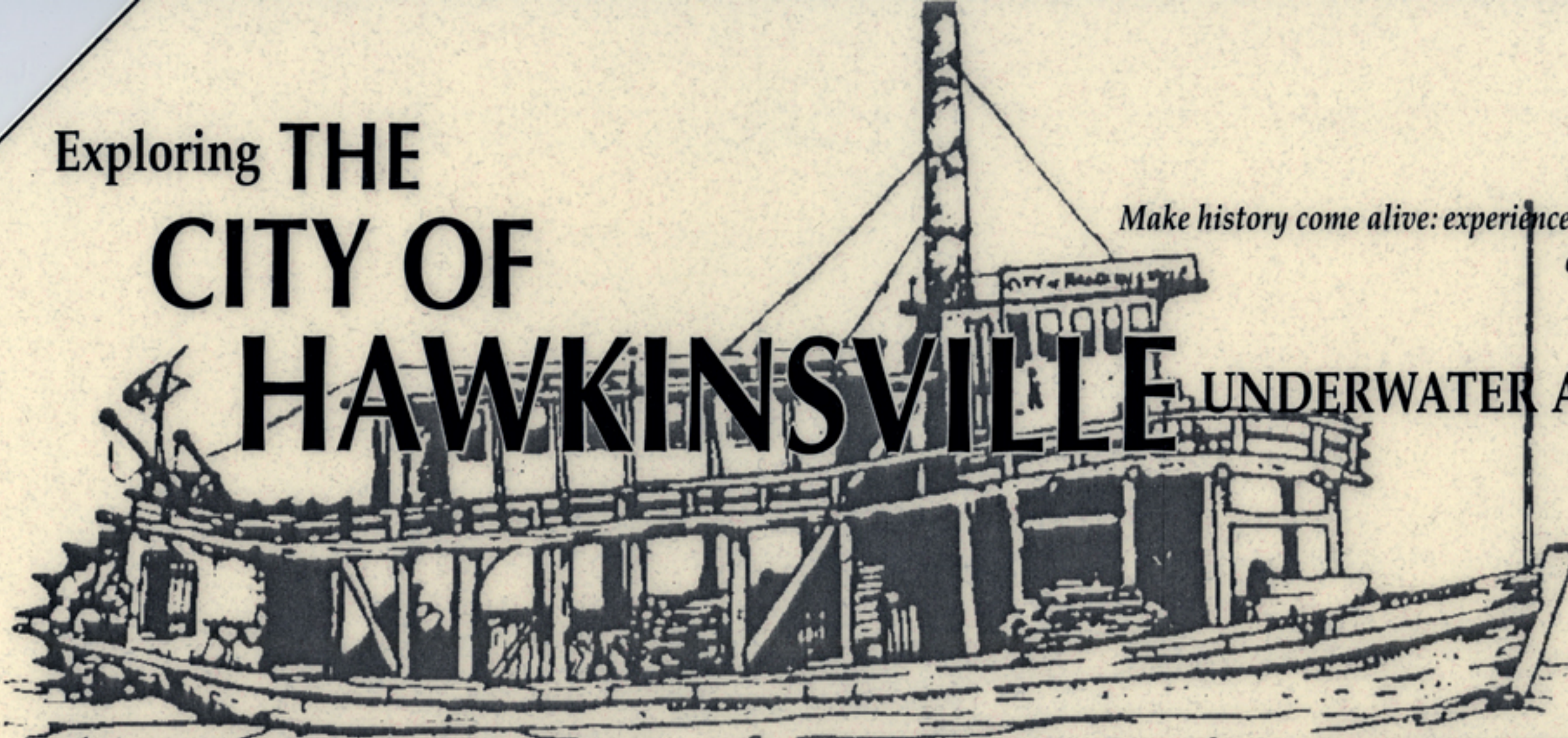


Exploring THE CITY OF HAWKINSVILLE

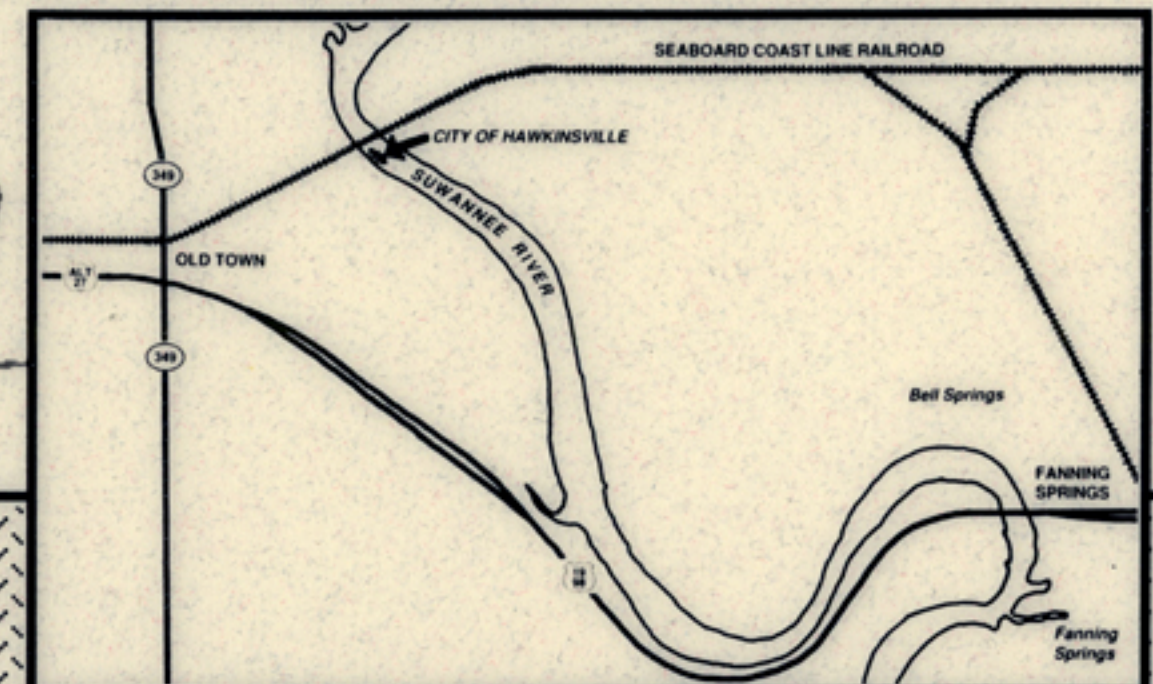
*A Window to the Past...
Make history come alive: experience the steamboat era in Florida by viewing the remains of a 19th century coastal steamboat.*

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVE

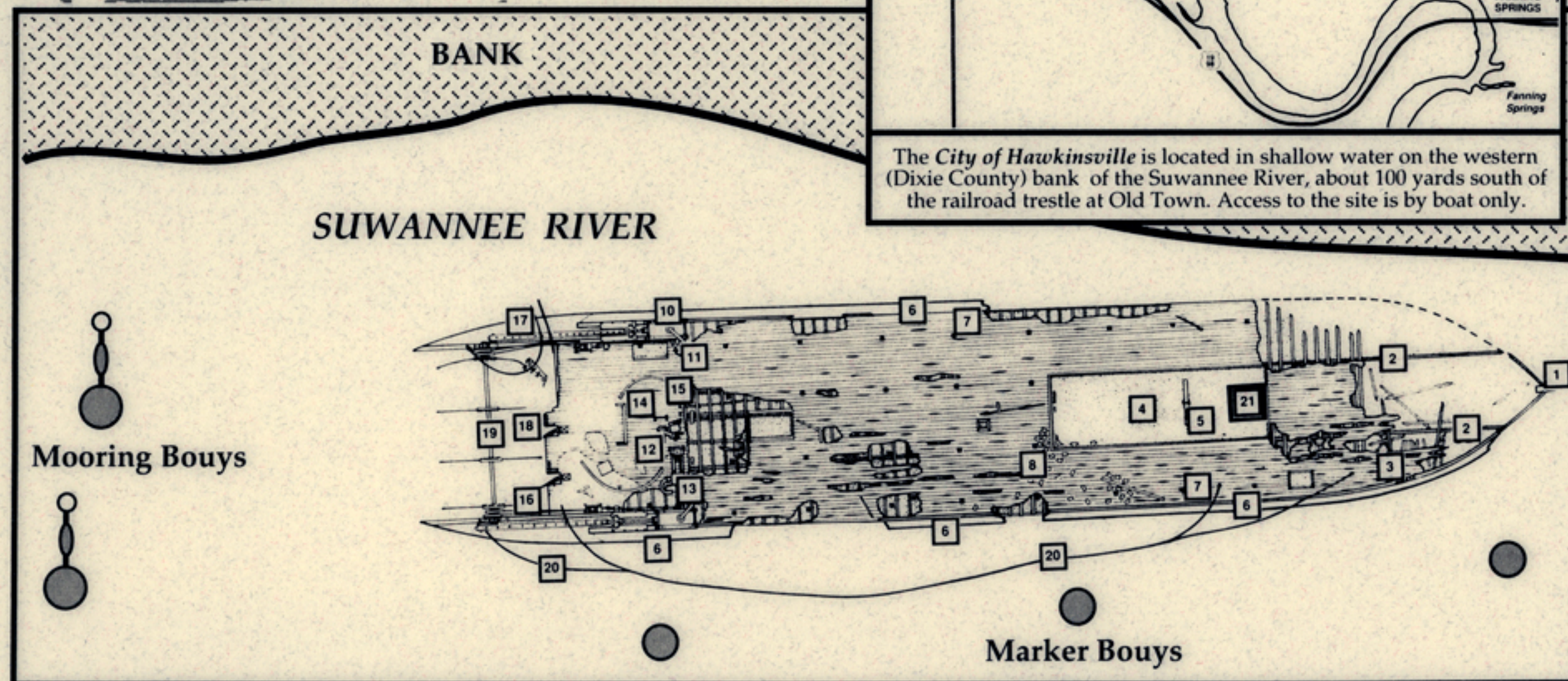


The City of Hawkinsville at Branford Station.

The City of Hawkinsville is a survivor of the 19th century coastal steamboat technology. She was the largest and the last steamboat stationed on the Suwannee River, serving a route that included Branford, Clay's Landing Old Town, and Cedar Keys. The City of Hawkinsville was 141 ft. long, with two decks, a single smoke stack, a square stern, and molded bow. Official records indicate that she was in service until May 19, 1922, when her last captain abandoned the vessel ending the steamboating era on the Suwannee River.



The City of Hawkinsville is located in shallow water on the western (Dixie County) bank of the Suwannee River, about 100 yards south of the railroad trestle at Old Town. Access to the site is by boat only.



The City of Hawkinsville is marked by a series of buoys on her starboard side, and by mooring buoys approximately 50 feet downstream from her stern (see above). Visitors to the City of Hawkinsville are asked to observe the following rules:

- Tie to the mooring buoys to prevent anchor damage to the site.
- Do not motor over the Hawkinsville inside and shoreward of the buoys.
- Display a "divers down" flag while diving.
- Divers should have Advanced Open-Water training.
- Do not dive into or under the hull.
- Avoid sharp edges, rough surfaces and stray fishing lines that can be encountered on the wreck.
- The minimum recommended equipment for a safe dive includes: (1) Full open water SCUBA equipment (2) Knife (3) Gloves (4) Underwater lights.

- Diving should not be attempted in the Hawkinsville when the river is above 4 feet on the gauge at nearby Wilcox Station in Fanning Springs, or if water visibility is less than 3 feet.
- Call Suwannee River Water Management District weekdays at 1-800-226-1066 to request Wilcox gauge reading.
- Call Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission 1-800-342-8105 to report damage to site.



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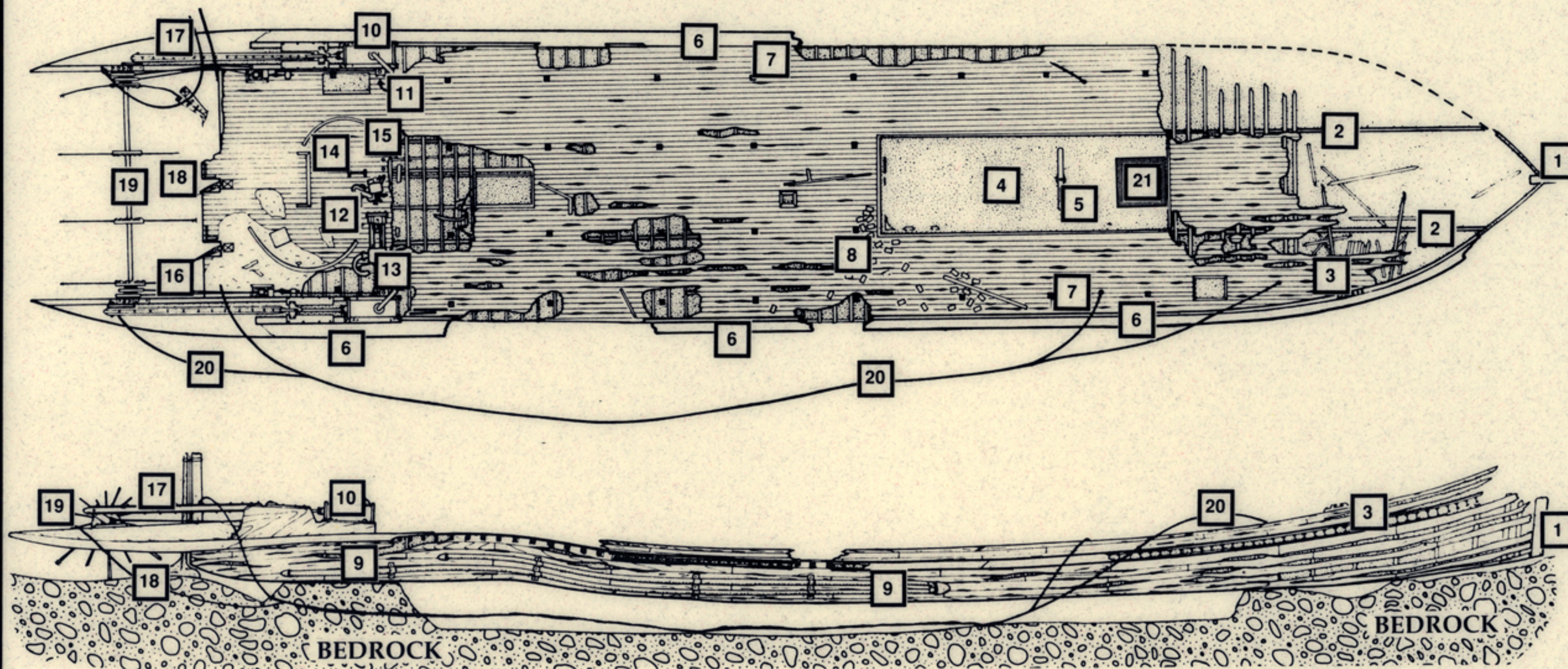
THE VIEW FROM DOWN UNDER

Today, the *City of Hawkinsville* looks like a story-book ghost ship. The hull of the sunken steamer is virtually intact with her bow pointing upriver. From the stempost, one can swim along the entire deck of the vessel to her stern paddlewheel, exploring numerous deck fittings and steam machinery along the way. Inside darkened hatches, mudfish and catfish make their homes.

Tilting at an angle of 20 degrees to starboard, (right side) the steamboat rests on a series of limestone rocks that supports the hull above the river bed. The port (left)

side of the vessel is partially buried in the river bank. Although the boat's steam boiler has been removed, most of the steam piping remains in place. The main propulsion system, consisting of two enormous horizontal piston engines, each of which drove a long Pitman arm connected to the paddlewheel, is easily recognizable along with its rods and gears. Perhaps the most dramatic feature of the wreckage is the four iron sprockets and their wooden spokes from the large paddlewheel that pushed the *Hawkinsville* up and down the Suwannee.

The *Hawkinsville* is a fragile piece of Florida's history. Do not stand on or hang onto wooden parts of the wreck. Please respect the underwater Preserve and leave the site as you found it for others to enjoy.



1. Stempost
2. Bulkhead
3. Fairlead
4. Boiler Room
5. Front Boiler Bracket with Fire Doors and Ash Pan

6. Guard
7. Stanchion
8. Bricks
9. Condenser Pipe
10. Steam Engine

11. Slide Valve
12. Condenser Pump
13. Water Pump
14. Shifting Lever
15. Steam Pipes

16. Shifting Linkage
17. Pitman Arm
18. Rudders
19. Paddlewheel
20. Hog Chain
21. *Hawkinsville* Plaque